

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling of an operator-controlled printer by a user, comprising the steps of:

providing a graphical user interface on the printer in a first mode of operation, wherein a first printer control element is shown on a first screen having a plurality of activatable areas corresponding to a subset of a set of printer functions ~~preset feature values~~ and inactivatable areas corresponding to a second screen associated with the respective printer functions ~~preset feature values~~;

receiving an invocation by the user representative of a request for the functionality of the first printer control element;

providing a controller and determining the current status condition of the first printer control element among a predetermined plurality of status conditions which includes an inactive control element condition and an active control element condition;

displaying the active control element condition on a first screen and displaying the inactive control element condition on a second screen;

in response to the invocation of the functionality of the first printer control element when the current status of the first printer control element is the inactive control element condition, changing the graphical user interface to an intermediate screen, wherein context-sensitive help information is provided in the intermediate screen;

providing a second printer control element on the intermediate screen, the second printer control element being operable to enable the user to select an automated procedure so as to change the current status of the first printer control element to a second status condition of the active control element condition;

in response to receiving the selection of the automated procedure, performing the automated procedure so as to cause the status of the first printer control element to be changed to the second status condition of the active control element condition and removing the intermediate screen on the graphical user interface; and

in response to completion of the automated procedure, changing the graphical user interface to a third mode of operation, such that each printer function ~~preset feature-value~~ within the set of printer functions ~~preset feature-values~~ has an activatable area associated therewith wherein the invoked functionality of the first printer control element is made available to the user; and, changing the appearance of the first printer control element so as to indicate the changeover to the second status condition.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of graphically representing the current status condition of the first printer control element in the graphical user interface.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of providing a change in the appearance of the first printer control element in the third mode of operation corresponding to the change from the first status condition to the second status condition.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of altering the appearance of at least a portion of the first printer control element to reflect the status currently set for the first printer control element relative to the available functionality of the first control element

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the appearance of at least a portion of the first printer control element is grayed-out during a status condition for the first control element of inactive functionality.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the context-sensitive help indicates a basis for the first status condition of the first printer control element.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a third printer control element operable by the user for causing the graphical user interface to return to the first mode of operation.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the invocation of the functionality of the first printer control element is performed by operation of a cursor-based input system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the invocation of the functionality of the first printer control element is performed by operation of a touchscreen input system.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the help information comprises an explanation of the inactive control element condition of the first printer control element.

12. (New) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the subset of printer functions includes values above and below a numerical control value.

13. (New) The method defined in claim 12, wherein graphical user interface displays the numeral control value in a predetermined color.

14. (New) The method defined in claim 12, wherein the graphical user interface displays values above and below the numerical control value in different colors.

15. (New) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the subset of preset printer functions includes image quality.